4: Hockings E-5 (1962-1977) 1980
AW50 Badaga AW50

844 A piece of garlic is tied with
757 cloth to each of her big toes, to prevent her from catching cold. (If
751 she gets a heavy cold, the illness is called *janni*, and the temperature of the body is below normal. Then a liquid medicine can be administered). Some five to ten minutes after the oil is given, the
846 mother is offered coffee with palm jaggery. This is given to all women after delivery.

844 4.12. The afterbirth comes a half-hour or so after the delivery, either before or after the mother has taken a bath. If it is slow in coming she will have the bath without waiting for it; although in earlier days it was customary to wait for t. Nowadays government midwives, if called in, pull the afterbirth *ex utero* if it does not immediately follow the delivery; and some others do this too.

844 Badaga women seldom go to hospital or even call a doctor
758 during child-birth. If they do so one can be sure that things
743 are very serious and often complicated. One day a Badaga woman was carried to the hospital . . . It was a case of retained placenta of three weeks duration, as the relatives told us. The woman was semi-conscious and pale with the loss of blood . . . (Ketti Medical Mission 1953:4).

657 With the increase in government programs for training midwives, such tragedies are becoming very rare. Some Badagas apparently knew of a medicine which they also provided Todas with to release a delayed placenta (Rivers 1906: 323).

844 Next, the floor where the child was born is washed with a cow-
788 dung solution. A handful of hay is lit with a brand from the fire and circled around several times over the damp spot. The burnt hay is then thrown away and the firebrand hit on the floor at that
751 point. The same place is then scratched with an adze, for it is said that if this is not done the child will get itches on the skin. (No spells are spoken; and it is not important to get the cowdung dried by the fire.)

844 The afterbirth is then carried by a woman to somewhere, generally within the hamlet boundary, where it can be buried. This can be anywhere distant from the settlement. Men may come to help
783 dig the hole, but will not touch the polluting afterbirth. It is bundled up in the dirty cloths or sacks, all of which are buried with it. A big stone and thorn bushes are put on top of the burial place, simply to make sure that no jackals or dogs eat it, for Badagas do